

abuse and mentoring, questions of health care for children.

Today in Texas, a court will undertake one of the most challenging legal cases of child custody ever to have been witnessed in the United States. As a strong opponent of child abuse and misuse of our children and affirmation of how precious they are, I ask the Court to make the right and determined decisions based on individual cases. We should not judge the parental rights based upon our opposition to the views of the Fundamental Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Just as I supported the return of Elian Gonzalez to his parents, I now support the concept that these parents and children should not be divided and separated because of our opposition to some of the legal practices of their parents.

We must respect the first amendment, but also the precious right of children and parents being together. There must not be a biased determination.

The children are still our precious resource, and if no harm has been done by their parents then the courts must act in the best interests of the children.

FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION ACT

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, 3 years ago, I authored H.R. 2102, the Free Flow of Information Act, with my colleague RICK BOUCHER from the State of Virginia.

As a conservative who believes in limited government, I believe the only check on government power in real time is a free and independent press. And the Free Flow of Information Act is not about protecting reporters, it's about protecting the public's right to know.

American people should know, Madam Speaker, we're at a unique moment in the history of this legislation. The overwhelming bipartisan House passage of the Free Flow of Information Act has now been joined with Senate action that includes the leadership of Senator RICHARD LUGAR, Senator ARLEN SPECTER, Senator PATRICK LEAHY and others. Senator BARACK OBAMA and Senator HILLARY CLINTON add themselves as cosponsors of the bill this week, and I heartily welcome the strong endorsement of Senator JOHN MCCAIN of this legislation.

I believe there's now a bipartisan majority in both the House and the Senate to support this vital legislation and ensure the vitality of a free and independent press for generations to come.

We just need one vote in the other body. And I believe we'll put a stitch in this tear in the first amendment freedom of the press.

THIS IS THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today because I'm very concerned about statements I've heard from all three Presidential candidates over the last few weeks. We hear constantly, I will do this, I will do that, I will do this, all referring to matters that have to be adopted by the United States Congress. And I would remind them that article I, section 1 of the Constitution says, all legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States.

So while we certainly look to the President as a partner in our policies, we know, as we've seen over the last couple of years, that this President, this White House ignores, the first article of the Constitution.

I would urge all three candidates, whoever is President, whoever he or she may be in 2009, re-read the Constitution, because this is the people's House. The founders' brilliance said that the people will speak as to the laws that they will obey through their representatives in Congress.

I again urge the President, the next President to re-read the Constitution and adhere to article I. Many of us wear this button because we're very concerned that people forget that this is their House.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

(Mr. KUHL of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUHL of New York. Madam Speaker, it seems that every day we read about gas and diesel prices hitting a new record high as the pain at the pump continues to ravish hard-working Americans of their hard-earned money. The once nightmare scenario of \$4 a gallon gasoline may soon become an even harsher reality.

While we have sat patiently and waited for Speaker PELOSI's common-sense solution, the cost of gas has soared \$1.05 since the Democrats took the gavel. This increase represents more than a 43 percent jump in old prices. Enough is enough.

I'm sure that I'm not the only Member of Congress listening to their constituents worry about the consequences of the majority's inaction on energy legislation. And while our constituents cannot afford to drive to work or take their children to school, Democrats have voted four times to raise energy taxes in the 110th Congress.

Higher energy taxes mean higher gas prices, something that our constituents do not want or need.

It is time for Speaker PELOSI to fulfill her promise to the American people. Instead of voting to increase taxes again, Congress should immediately adopt legislation which will give Amer-

ica lower energy prices without raising taxes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded not to stand in the well or put documents on the podium when another Member is under recognition.

□ 1045

GIVE TAX RELIEF TO THE PEOPLE WHO REALLY NEED IT

(Mr. HODES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HODES. Madam Speaker, while many of us are standing up for tax cuts for working middle class families, there are some on the other side who want to continue to provide tax breaks to millionaires, billionaires, and even to big oil companies earning record profits. For the last 7 years, we've watched these record giveaways to the wealthiest people and corporations turn our budget surpluses into record deficits.

The administration's fiscal mess is so bad that President Bush has borrowed more money from foreign countries than all 42 of his predecessors combined leaving our children in debt to unfriendly foreign leaders. American taxpayers are paying Iraq's bill while we have serious needs at home.

Yesterday, in my home State, New Hampshire, gas prices hit record highs, and nearly 4,300 New Hampshire families may lose their homes to foreclosure. It's time to help middle class families caught in the economic squeeze.

Now, I'm committed to changing the way Washington does business by giving tax relief to the people who truly need it. We can't fix our economy with the same policies that led to the economic slide.

WE NEED TO SEE THE DEMOCRATS' NEW PLAN FOR LOWER GAS PRICES

(Mr. WESTMORELAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, April 28, 2006, a press release by Anita Lowe: These skyrocketing gas prices are a reflection of the Republican energy plan. We need a long-term strategy to lower gas prices and meet our energy needs. Yet Republicans passed up a golden opportunity in major energy bills last year. Democrats have a plan to give American families the relief they deserve. Democrats, Madam Speaker, have been in charge for 16 months and gas prices have gone up over \$1.25 a gallon.

April 18, 2006, in a press release, then-Minority Leader NANCY PELOSI: But